

Resolution XI.16

Ensuring efficient delivery of scientific & technical advice and support to the Convention

STRP17

25 Feb – 1 March 2013

Gland, Switzerland

Why?

- 20 years after establishment of STRP
- Recognises the major STRP delivery of guidance and support to Convention implementation
 - with limited resources
- Recognises with increasing no. of Parties, Ramsar Sites etc., increasing demand for advice and support, at regional, national and site levels
 - But that, despite evolving roles and priorities over time, current STRP structure cannot deliver all expectations/needs/demands of multiple stakeholders

What?

- **“a review of the delivery, uptake and implementation of scientific and technical advice and guidance to the Convention will be undertaken”**
 - for consideration by the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP12)”

What?

inter alia:

- i) **review the application and utility of Ramsar guidance**, building on the findings and conclusions of the “Evaluation of the Use & Utility of Ramsar Guidance” and any other relevant assessments, and
 - provide recommendations for improving the operationality of guidance for the target audiences;

- ii) **review the full range of processes by which scientific and technical Convention implementation needs are identified, articulated, prioritised and converted into tools for the range of on-the-ground stakeholders**,
 - including those processes which involve adoption of scientific and technical Resolutions by the COP (including the terms of Resolution VIII.45) as well as
 - other relevant processes within or outside formal Convention mechanisms, and also including
 - the development of clear and transparent criteria to formally prioritize STRP work in order to ensure that the tasks undertaken by the STRP reflect the highest priority needs of the Contracting Parties;

What?

- iii) **review the roles of relevant entities within the Convention for scientific support and delivery to stakeholders,**
 - including the roles of the STRP, the CEPA Oversight Panel, the Secretariat, the national focal points, and the Regional Initiatives,
 - giving special attention to finding ways to ensure that scientific and technical products effectively support the Contracting Parties' abilities to advance the implementation of the Convention;

- iv) **explore possible refinements or changes to all relevant Convention processes to facilitate effective communications** between all those entities involved in scientific support and delivery;

- v) consider ways and means to **strengthen collaboration with the scientific advisory bodies of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements on scientific and technical issues of common concern, *inter alia*** through
 - further development of joint scientific and technical products, where appropriate, in order to leverage funding, increase efficiencies, and avoid duplication of efforts;

What?

- vi) identify **monitoring and evaluation mechanisms**, including the use of existing mechanisms, **needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the scientific support and delivery processes** within the Convention, across the various responsible entities; and

- vii) generate **suggestions for a future vision, direction and objectives** for maintaining the strong practical science evidence base upon which the Ramsar Convention was founded;

How?

- Establishes a “**review committee**”
- Appointed by the Standing Committee
- Secretariat: support the establishment of the review committee and its work,
 - as needed and according to clear specifications to be provided by the Standing Committee
- Review Committee should consult widely with Parties

Who?

- Members of the [Standing Committee's] Management Working Group, and
- any other interested Contracting Parties, and
- International Organization Partners (since they have been key actors of the Convention since its beginning)
- ***with no conflict of interest***

Who?

Review committee should, **through appropriate appointments**, include

expertise familiar of the development of:

- the Ramsar Convention,
- the STRP,
- the responsibilities of Contracting Parties, and
- implementation on the ground,

and also with

- knowledge of other international science platforms including not only IPBES but also other subsidiary scientific platforms and bodies.

It should also include

- expertise and knowledge of the operational needs of Contracting Parties and in particular
- the needs of
 - local wetland managers and
 - policy makers

When?

- **SC46** (April 2013)
 - Management Working Group & Standing Committee needs to establish “**Review Committee**”, its membership, and Terms of Reference, mode of operation and delivery timelines
- **Review Committee** should present a clear assessment of the present situation and recommendations that will be submitted to the Standing Committee for consideration during the 2013-2015 triennium
- Recommendations will include suggestions for mechanisms within the Convention to implement any proposed changes, with assessment of their financial implications, and a Draft Resolution for COP12 consideration
 - All **Review Committee work needs to be completed** and DR submitted to SC48 (expected Jan/Feb 2015) – by c **November 2014**

How funded?

- **No core budget allocation**
- Cost and duration of the review should be taken into consideration, and
- the work of the review committee should be focused and should use cost-effective means of working so as to keep its activity within reasonable limits and minimize costs.
- The Chairs of the Standing Committee, its Subgroup on Finance, the Management Working Group and the STRP plus the Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee should **review the STRP line items in the budget to direct their use as necessary towards implementing this Resolution**
 - NB1. note that the STRP has, in parallel to this review committee work, been tasked by Parties through Resolution XI.17 to deliver substantive Top Priority work during 2013-2015; and
 - NB2. the STRP Oversight Committee (SC Chair & Vice-Chair; STRP Chair & Vice-Chair, SG & DSG *ex officio*) has the responsibility for STRP annual core budget line allocations (STRP *modus operandi*)